

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of transmitting video signals, comprising the steps of:

- receiving an image of an original video signal;
- modifying an image area of said image to create a modified video signal;
- transmitting the modified video signal;

~~characterized in that the method includes the step of transmitting an auxiliary signal defining replacement video information for said image area of the modified video signal~~ as a sub-series of bits, wherein said sub-series is encoded by a substantially same number of bits as said image area.

Claim 2 (original): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said replacement video information is the image area of the original signal.

Claim 3 (original): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the auxiliary signal further includes data defining the position and/or size of the replacement video information.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the modified video signal is encoded into a bitstream and the image area is represented by the a sub-series of bits, characterized in that the replacement video information is ~~similarly~~ encoded and represented by a substantially same number of bits as the modified image area.

Claim 5 (original): A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the auxiliary signal is accommodated in user data fields of the bitstream.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the modified video signal is predictively encoded and the step of modifying is applied to pictures which are not referred to by other pictures.

Claim 7 (original): A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the modification of the image area identifies copy protection status information.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the image is modified in such a manner that the modified video signal has a pattern that is not reproduced upon playback by conventional analog video recorders.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An arrangement for transmitting a video signal, comprising:

- means for receiving an image of an original video signal;
- means for modifying an image area of said image to create a modified video signal;
- means for transmitting the modified video signal;

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the arrangement includes means for transmitting an auxiliary signal defining a sub-image to replace the modified image area of the modified video signal, and wherein said sub-image is encoded by a substantially same number of bits as said image area.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of decoding a digital video signal, comprising the steps of:

- receiving a main bitstream representing an image of a video signal;
- receiving an auxiliary bitstream representing replacement video information for an image area of said image;
- replacing a sub-series of bits of said main first bitstream representing said image area by said replacement video information to obtain a modified bitstream, wherein said modified bitstream defines said sub-series by a substantially same number of bits as said image area in said main bitstream; and
- decoding said modified bitstream.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method of transcoding a digital video signal, comprising the steps of:

- receiving a main bitstream representing an image of a video signal;
- receiving an auxiliary bitstream representing replacement video information for an image area of said image;
- replacing a sub-series of bits of said main first bitstream representing said image area by said replacement video information to obtain a modified bitstream, wherein said modified bitstream

defines said sub-series by a substantially same number of bits as said image area in said main bitstream; and

- transmitting said modified bitstream.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim ~~10 or~~ 11, wherein the auxiliary bitstream is accommodated in user data fields of the main first bitstream.

Claim 13. (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising ~~the step of~~ deriving the position and/or size of said image area from data included in the auxiliary bitstream.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

- determining whether the image area represented by said sub-series of bits of said main first bitstream identifies copy protection status information; and
- enabling recording of the modified bitstream if said determination is positive.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An arrangement for decoding a digital video signal, comprising:

- means for receiving a main bitstream representing an image of a ~~the~~ video signal;
- means for receiving an auxiliary bitstream representing replacement video information for an image area of said image;
- means for replacing a sub-series of bits of said main first bitstream representing said image area by said replacement video information to obtain a modified bitstream, wherein said sub-series is represented by a substantially same number of bits as said image area; and
- means for decoding said modified bitstream.

Claim 16 (currently amended): An arrangement for transcoding a digital video signal, comprising:

- means for receiving a main bitstream representing an image of a ~~the~~ video signal;
- means for receiving an auxiliary bitstream representing replacement video information for an image area of said image;
- means for replacing a sub-series of bits of said main first bitstream representing said image

area by said replacement video information to obtain a modified bitstream, wherein said sub-series is represented by a substantially same number of bits as said image area; and

- means for transmitting said modified bitstream.

Claim 17 (currently amended): An arrangement as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

- means for determining whether the image area represented by said sub-series of bits of said main first bitstream identifies copy protection status information; and
- means for enabling recording of the modified bitstream if said determination is positive.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A video signal, comprising:

- a main bitstream representing an image of the video signal, an image area of said video signal being encoded into a sub-series of bits; and
- an auxiliary bitstream representing replacement video information for said image area, the replacement video information being ~~encoded in a similar manner, and~~ represented by a substantially same number of bits as said sub-series.

Claim 19 (new): The video signal of claim 18 further comprising an indicia identifying block size of the replacement video information.

Claim 20 (new): The video signal of claim 18 further comprising an identifier that identifies existence of the replacement the information within the video signal.